

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Okay, I guess we are saying essentially the same thing then. How do you finance public radio?

SENATOR MARSH: Senator, public radio is financed by private donations and public dollars.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: It has always been my position, and I hope I don't deviate from this, that any time a tax paying institution is placed in competition with a tax supported institution, that I should give my support to the tax paying institution. Now do you....

SENATOR MARSH: I do not feel that these two agencies would be in competition with each other, Senator. I think they are providing different services because they are compatible, one with the other.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Could you explain this compatibility, how one compliments the other?

SENATOR MARSH: Yes, if you were taking a section of a book which is being read to the blind, this particular kind of service is not being offered on commercial radio at this time. This is a service which is often offered on public radio in the thirty-seven states which do have public radio. That kind of programming is the kind of thing to which I am speaking or the Christmas program for your local high school. These type of things which are not currently being utilized by commercial radio.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Thank you, Senator Marsh.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Dworak moves to amend. Would you like me to read it, Senator? Read. (See page 1885, Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I agree, would be the first to agree that public radio has a lot of merits, a lot of things that are beneficial and good for the State of Nebraska. Certainly the educational programming would be one of them. The special programming for the blind and handicapped would be another. Certainly its compatibility with educational TV, its classical music programming, special music programming, the informational meetings and informations that it can broadcast. Now, I know I, myself, listen to WOI out of Ames which we can just barely get in Columbus area and the programming is excellent but I think we have to look at one other thing and that's, as neat as this is, as many benefits as this offers today, can this state afford this particular fine thing this year? I think with the veto messages coming across, I think with some of the other demands of the expenditure, I think maybe we had better take a look at this for another year. That is why I offer this amendment. In effect, the section that calls for the construction of the specific stations, that calls for the construction and the implementation, I am striking this section, and in lieu of, I am asking that the commission look at this again for one more year and come back next year of this Legislature in a long session, rather than try to make this kind of a fiscal decision in a short session